



The  
**OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION**  
Spring/Summer 2024  
Newsletter

**Editorial:** (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

Hello and goodbye.

Sadly, I have to give up my OJA duties which include the newsletters, Web site and Facebook. There are just not enough hours in the day to do these tasks justice. So, this is my last Newsletter. At the last AGM (which preceded the annual OJA dinner) I formally stepped down but it became apparent that there would be a disconnect until my replacement was found. I therefore volunteered to edit this coming newsletter.



My replacement has now thankfully been found. Clare Bellett has volunteered for the role, and will no doubt stamp her own style on this publication in due course. In the meantime, I shall press on.

There are a few snippets that have been gathered for this newsletter, and I trust that you will find them relevant and interesting.

The remainder of the news on Facebook and the web site will be in the following associated articles.

I'd just like to finish by asking that you all continue to contribute items of interest directly via email, or via the web site or Facebook.

There has been a lot happening behind the scenes in the last few years.

- College closes down
- Covid 19 pandemic (Disruption to annual dinners &tc)
- The loss of 2 long-term OJA committee members Charles Hoar and Peter Cullinane
- Incumbent chair stepping down mid-term
- The migration to a greater digital presence

The achievements of the 'new' committee

- Continuing successfully after the pandemic
- Reinstating the annual dinner and golf along with the new 'Christmas event.'
- Setting up the OJA web site and including on-line subscription and event payments
- Transferring the OJA FaceBook group which now has over 1000 members
- Setting up the OJA LinkedIn group
- Re-writing and updating the OJA rules
- Handling the archive gathering on the old college site
- The inclusion of SJC staff in the OJA membership and attendance at the annual dinner.

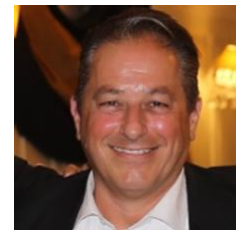
The mindset of the younger generation now rarely includes the concept of club or association membership, but through the auspices of FaceBook and LinkedIn and the web site, we hope very much to bridge the gap between the OJA and the 'Alumni' OJ's that represent the latter years of the college. Due to GDPR we have lost formal contact with all these younger OJ's but continually explore new methods of reaching out to them and encouraging them to engage with the OJA. There are signs of early success in this field and no doubt you will be kept informed of any future developments.

And as the OJA moves ever onward, researching new opportunities for events and on-line services.

The Association is in good hands with younger committee demographic, female representation and now led by Andy Valvona (chairperson) who has served for many years, and I know is committed to the success of the OJA.

## Chairperson's Report: (Andy Valvona Chairperson / Treasurer / Membership Secretary)

I had the pleasure of attending the 103rd Old Johannian Association Annual Reunion Dinner, at the Queen's Hotel, on April 20th 2024, which was preceded by the OJA Annual General Meeting. Attendees of the AGM (which is open to all members of the Association, by the way), unanimously voted in the following individuals as Committee Members for the following year.



Myself, as Chairman, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary.  
Stephen Davies as Events Manager.  
Steve Bedingham as Archives Manager.  
Dr. Dominic Fontana, as Committee member with responsibility for LinkedIn.  
Chery Fontana as Committee Member.

Also discussed at the meeting were:

- Plans to introduce a tiered pricing arrangement for ticketing at future OJA events, so that members of the OJA are charged a lower ticket price than non-members.
- James White OJ also suggested that a discount be applied to younger OJs, who might then be encouraged to attend and join the Association.
- The rules of the Association have been updated, and a unanimous vote approved these rules, which can be found on the OJA Website at [https://www.old-johannian-association.com/files/uqgd/7cfb22\\_512e449f18ed4dbb876c43de1b734f76.pdf](https://www.old-johannian-association.com/files/uqgd/7cfb22_512e449f18ed4dbb876c43de1b734f76.pdf)

Full minutes of the AGM can be found in this newsletter.

The dinner occasion itself, was excellent, with many OJ's travelling quite some distance in order to attend. (In fact, 2 OJs travelled from the US in order to catch up with old alumni chums). However, there was some negative feedback about the room itself, which is in the basement of the Queens's Hotel, with limited bar facilities. The Committee will review it's options for the next annual dinner.

The proceeds of the raffle held on the evening, £460.00, will be awarded to Brother Raj's project in Sri Lanka, a project the OJA has supported for several years now. It is the desire of the committee to support other deserving causes, so we will be discussing what those will be after this particular award. Any suggestions are welcome from you all – please email them to the OJA.

Organising the dinner, and running the Committee, takes a lot of time and effort, and we should all be very thankful for the efforts of the Committee members, not just in arranging the dinner. My own personal thanks go out to in no particular order:

Stefan Bartkowiak, our MC on the evening, and former chairman of the OJA, for his gargantuan efforts on getting the Website into shape, together with updating the rules of the Association, which had become unfit for purpose, the Facebook page, ably assisted by Kes Kesteven. Stefan has also virtually single-handedly produced the OJA Newsletter, which goes out to all paid up and Life/Honorary members of the OJA, on a regular basis. Stefan has stepped down from the committee following the dinner, but has kindly volunteered to produce this Spring 2024 issue of the Newsletter, so we have a massive hole to fill. Fortunately, 2 OJ's stepped up at the AGM. OJs Clare Bellett, and Anna Nguyen, agreed to take on the Newsletter (after this issue), and the Website respectively.

Thanks also to the OJA's Events Manager, Stephen Davies, for his efforts in organising the event, and the OJA's Xmas reunion, also held at this venue. A special thank you goes to Stephen, and his lovely wife, Roma, co-Director of the Business, for producing a splendid bespoke SJC deckchair, which was the star prize in the raffle. I am confident in saying that this must be the best raffle prize the OJA has ever offered. Stephen and Roma are very busy people running a local, successful business, whilst Stephen also serves on the committee of his trade association, so we are very grateful for the time he devotes to the OJA.

Thank you to ex-teacher, Steve Bedingham, for his sterling efforts in securing many items OJA and SJC archive material from the site of the college. This is more difficult than it sounds, as the developer needs to turn their investment into a profit as soon as they can, so Steve, ably assisted by Stefan are to be complemented on the sterling job they have carried out in their discussions with the developer.

Thanks also to Dominic Fontana, for his words of wisdom, and calm and pragmatic manner, in helping steer the Association through such a difficult period. And thanks also to Cheryl Fontana, who many of you will remember as an ex-teacher for all her efforts in serving on the OJA Committee supporting the Association, and for sourcing the raffle prizes.

So, what now for the Association? There is no school anymore, but there are thousands of people who have passed through the school over the years, many having some fond memories. We aim to continue to be the go-to place for old school friends, teachers, and anyone else with a connection to St John's College, to be able to enjoy the resources at our disposal. For example, we have managed to salvage various publications, including, the History of St John's College, by Michael Magan, published in 1977, and some of the school gazettes from the 1940s and 50s. The winter 1949 edition included a reference to the forthcoming Annual Dinner, which was held at the Academy, Elm Grove, Southsea, on January 14th, and tickets were a mere 9 shillings and sixpence.

The plan is to digitise this material, and post it on the OJA website, so every OJA Member can enjoy them. If anyone has any similar material, and would like it displayed on the Website, please let the Association know.

On behalf of the OJA, I sincerely thank you all for your support. I am confident that the Association will continue to flourish, for many years to come.

# MEMBERSHIP



## Membership Report (Andy Valvona Chairperson / Treasurer / Membership Secretary) May 2024

The OJA currently has 150 paying members, together with 12 Brothers, and 10 Life/Honorary Members. Of the 150 paying members, the vast majority are paying at least full subs of £20.00 per annum, but there are a number paying at the old rates of £10.00, and £5.00, due to their standing orders not being increased. Can I

ask all members to check their standing order payment, and if full subscriptions are not being paid, please amend to £20.00, in time for the next annual payment, which is due at the end of March.

N.B. Subscriptions/donations for the Year to April 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, amounted to £2,551.84. This is not a round number, due a number of members paying their subs via the OJA website, which takes a small fee from each transaction.

Just reminder that all correspondence should go to our Association email address:  
OldJohannianAssociation@gmail.com



## Treasurers Report (Andy Valvona Chairperson / Treasurer / Membership Secretary) May 2024

**Cash at Bank on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**£9,482.43**

### INCOME

Subscriptions and donations*	£2,551.84
Annual Dinner Ticket Sales	£1,992.25
PayPal set up fee	£ 0.01
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£4,544.10</b>

\* See over for previous years.

### EXPENDITURE

Meeting Room Hire/Beverages (Committee Meetings)	£ 113.15
Printing Costs (Newsletters)	£ 343.39
Printing Costs (Dinner related)	£ 24.60
Annual Dinner	£2,948.00
Postage (Newsletters/Dinner Tickets)	£ 317.84
Stationary	£ 50.21
Website	£ 302.35
Gift to organiser of the OJA Golf Day	£ 27.98
Annual Dinner Raffle Prizes*	£ 300.88
Storage Boxes for OJA archive material	£ 271.99
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£4,700.39</b>

\* Awaiting invoice for Deckchair, and £42.68 spent on printing menu brochure post April 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Cash at Bank on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**£9,326.14**

The OJA is happy to, and actively encourages Paid Up / Life / Honorary members of the OJA to ask for sight of its Bank Statements, and receipts for any expenditure, together with any rationale. Please email the OJA on [oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com) if you wish to view any or all of these documents, and/or require an explanation of any matters arising.

### Treasurer's comments:

The OJA is in strong Financial Health, largely as a result of the pandemic, which led to no events being arranged for a period. The OJA funds subsidised the annual dinner by just around £1,500.00, with 2 invoices of c£90.00 being paid in the next reporting period.



## The College Archives (Steve Bedingham OJA Archivist)

As the redevelopment of the College site continues, I have been assured that the OJA will be informed should any further items of interest be discovered. Meanwhile, work continues also with the mass of archive material (mainly photos) stored with the City Museum Service. This work will be very much ongoing and will not be available for public viewing for some considerable time. Many Old Johannians have sent photos and other items (school reports, testimonials etc) to the Association and these are available on the website. More can be found on the Facebook page.

The College Gazette, covering almost the entire period of the College's existence, is a fairly accurate record of its history, and items from this (together with some of the material mentioned above) is now being looked at with a view to making it available on the website too. Again, this process will take some time.



I have visited the College several times since its closure, mainly in connection with my work on the archives. Outwardly, there appears to be very little change, other than a general - and now advanced-state of dereliction.

Woodleigh Boarding House, with the school laundry on the end. I was housemaster from 1981 -86 during which time it housed 40+boarders.



It's looking a bit sad now, though work has already begun inside.



The College moved to the Castle in 1912. The Upper Floor housed the staff room and also, until around 2000, the OJA Clubrooms. Reg Lawrence ran the tuck shop facing onto the playground, and in its final years, the whole of the ground floor housed the school stationery and uniform shop. To the right is the Simon Wing which is to be demolished.



As you can see, work has already been started on the inside of the building.



The Scholes / Macadam



The Scholes Wing is looking very sad too, but here again, work has already started and is progressing.

## St. John's College (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

We continue to strive to maintain contact with the Nicolas James group who now own the college site. We know that this information is of particular interest to the wider OJ community, and we hope to keep you up to date with any developments. It is worth re-iterating the group's vision for the site which is published as follows on their web site:-

<https://stjohnscollege-consultation.co.uk/>

### "OUR VISION

*Nicolas James Group has been developing high-quality schemes throughout the south of England for twenty-five years. The company bought St John's College in the knowledge that this is a sensitive location with a long history of being embedded in the community.*

***After consideration, it seems the best use for the site is to retain and refurbish all but two of the modern buildings on site, and bring the vast majority of the site back into a positive use whilst respecting its unique history."***

Further information can be found at the following: -

<https://stjohnscollege-consultation.co.uk/the-site/>

Here is the current planning application: -

<https://publicaccess.portsmouth.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RZU6BKMO0JP00>

Conversion and extension of former college buildings to create 110 apartments and demolition of college buildings and erection of new buildings to create 102 apartments utilising existing access from Grove Road South, Nelson Road and Albany Road together with associated landscaping, parking, cycling and refuse storage.

### Properties (13)

[1 Cavendish Road Southsea PO5 2DG](#)

[Staff Flat St Donats House 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

[Woodleigh 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

[Oak Cottage 1a Nelson Road Southsea PO5 2AR](#)

[Linnholm House 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

[Hayfield 1 Nelson Road Southsea PO5 2AR](#)

[Woodlands 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

[St Donats House 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

[St Johns College Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

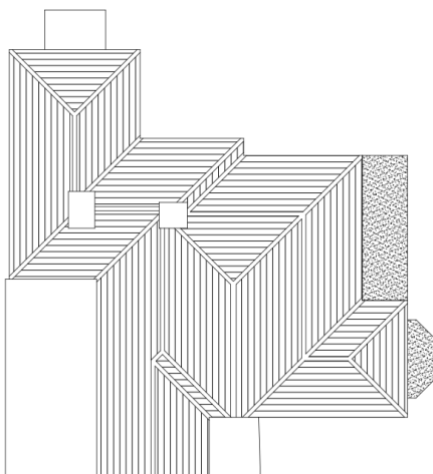
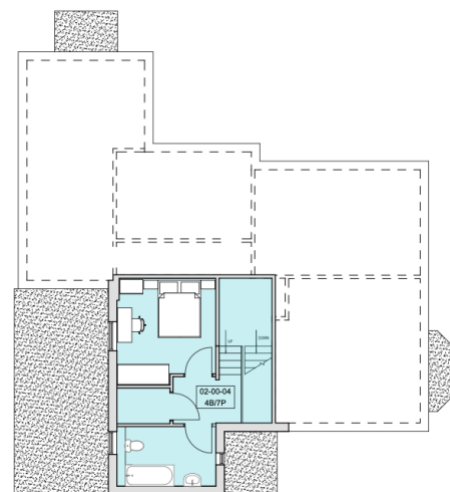
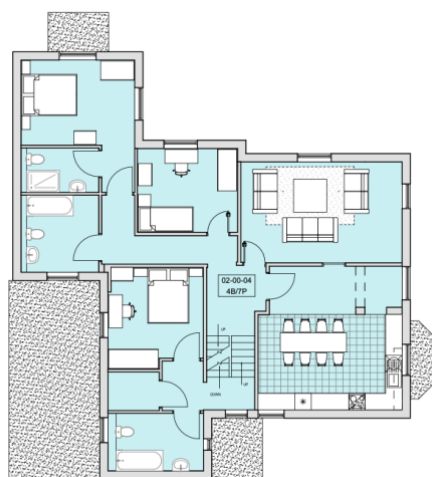
[Carnarvan 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

[Oaklands 3 Nelson Road Southsea PO5 2AR](#)

[Nature Nursery Nelson Road Southsea PO5 2AR](#)

[West End 36 - 40 Grove Road South Southsea PO5 3QW](#)

Here are the plans for the castle





## EVENTS (Stephen Davies OJA Events)



### Annual Dinner

The 103rd Old Johannian dinner held at the Queen's Hotel on April 20th turned out to be an excellent evening. As usual there was a great atmosphere and the numbers were up from 38 (2023) to 53 with some new faces on the scene and hopefully this will continue to grow over the next few years. With continued support from members, I am hoping that this quite unique, very special gathering will from now continue to gain momentum. Indeed, I was delighted to see some of the distances that OJs had travelled in order to attend the event, with OJs from all over the UK in attendance, and 2 OJs who travelled from the USA to be with us for the occasion. A splendid effort! Some photos from the evening are shown here.



The next dinner will be held on the evening of Saturday, May 10th. More details will be announced in due course.

### Reminder

The OJA annual dinners are now to be scheduled for the 3rd Saturday after Easter.



### OJA Annual Golf Tournament

Brian Saunders is finalising details of the 2024 Annual Golf Tournament, to be held at the Waterlooville Golf Club in October. Full details will be advised shortly. Can those OJs who are interested in taking part please register their interest, by emailing the Association on [oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com)

### OJA Christmas gathering

I am putting together plans for this year's Christmas gathering, and final details will be confirmed shortly, including date and venue. Can those OJs who are interested in taking part please register their interest, by emailing the Association on [oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oldjohannianassociation@gmail.com)



### **The OJA web site** (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

<https://www.old-johannian-association.com/>

The progress of the development of this vital asset to the OJA.

**This site is intended to be the primary means of interfacing with the OJA member community** and other OJ's who wish to 're-connect' via the Association.

Having retired from the web site manager's role, Anna Nguyen has volunteered to take over the running of the web site. She lives in the USA, but by the very nature of the role, she can oversee the site very effectively from anywhere globally. She currently, already runs 4 web sites, so her experience and skill will no doubt move this essential resource ever onwards.



### **The OJA Facebook page** (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OJASJC>

From the last newsletter to this one, the FB OJA group numbers have risen to over 1000! This has become a very active and useful medium for OJ's to easily continue communicating with each other. and the perpetrators have been removed and blocked.

The FB group is now in the hands of Kes Kesteven, who has kindly volunteered to admin this resource for the OJA. Thanks, Kes!

No doubt Kes will keep you up to date in future newsletters.

In the meantime visit the group and join in the conversations

### **Here are a few excerpts from the OJA FB group** (All from within the last month.)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OJASJC>

Hello from Perth, Australia. I've just discovered this group. I was at SJC from about 68 to 72. I'm wondering if anyone has any whole school photos. I saw Dominic Fontana's one from 1968; I can't see myself there. I was in Brother Benedict's class [my favourite teacher] in possibly 3rd year [67-year-old brain-fog!].

So sad that it has closed.

Perth here as well. Was there for my A-levels from 1987-89. Very fond memories of the school and of Portsmouth & Southsea. Was there for full boarding at St Donats house.

We all have benefited from some truly remarkable experiences whilst attending the College, but over the years staff came and went, so that we didn't all share those truly inspirational and dedicated educators. I'd like to hear some reminiscences praising the most inspirational teachers remembered by each generation.

My suggestions include: Ronnie Mills, Brother Gabriel, Helen Dyer, Tony Tuckwell, John Offord and Roger May. All for very different reasons, but instrumental in my navigation through the school.

Bernard Black and John Davies. "Bernie" (as everyone called him but not to his face!) could be a bit cantankerous but was a lovely man underneath. "Flannel is no substitute for soap and water" was one of his favourite phrases.

WOW! I'm so happy I found this photo. That's me sitting in front of Mr Mears's right leg. I have no photos from that time.

During my time at SJC (78-83) I remember on a Friday evening there was a film club / society. I think Mike Smith (1st year Form Tutor) ran it. The movies were shown in the auditorium. Films included, Many Mel Brooks films, rocky horror and The Godfather. Does anyone else remember the club / Mike Smith / films shown and the cost? I'm thinking £5 a term, but probably wrong

I loved film club and remember Young Frankenstein.

I was in Southsea yesterday and so decided to have a spy at what was going on at the site.

Most of the buildings still look tired and run down although the De La Salle "D" block looked in good condition externally. What was once the main reception building (on Nelson Road) for most of my time at SJC (2013-18) has since had the headmaster's study demolished and the Brother's House (later Sixth Form building) was entirely covered in scaffolding as can be seen in the photos.

So, join in the conversations, share your memories and experiences and enjoy being an OJ.



## AGM April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 6.00pm-6.45pm Agenda/Minutes

### Attendees:

Andy Valvona (OJA Chair, Treasure/Membership Secretary)  
Stefan Bartkowiak (Outgoing OJA Committee member) (OJA Website, Facebook Account, and Newsletter)  
Stephen Davies (OJA Events Manager)  
Cheryl Fontana (OJA Committee Member)  
Dominic Fontana (OJA Committee Member, with responsibility for OJA LinkedIn page)  
Steve Bedingham (OJA Committee Member) – Part of meeting  
James White (OJA paid up member) – Part of meeting  
John Mordaunt (OJA paid up member) – Part of meeting  
Stephen Barrett (OJA paid up member)  
Peter Rogers (OJA paid up member)  
Michael Combes (OJA paid up member)  
Phil Jones (OJA paid up member)  
Anthony Flynn (OJA paid up member)  
Geoff Howard (OJA paid up member)  
Anna Nguyen (OJA paid up member)



- Welcome and apologies.  
AV opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Minutes of previous AGM. – Chairman - Andy Valvona  
An apology was made for the lack of minutes recorded at the previous AGM, due to the passing of the then Chairperson, PM Cullinane
- Chairperson's report, and Presentation of Financial reports acting Chairman & Treasurer – Andy Valvona
  - AV outlined the circumstances which followed the last AGM, include the passing of the former chair, and Treasurer, P.M. Cullinane, appointment of a new Chair, Patrick Mallon, and his subsequent resignation due to ill health, which led to AV being requested by the committee to temporarily (until this AGM) take on the roles of Chair and Treasurer, in addition to his existing role.
  - AV outlined the strong financial position the OJA is in, and talked through the Financial Statement of the Association for the Year ending 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, including a statement of previous years membership subscription and donation income. The statement is attached. In the spirit of complete transparency, AV advised the group that all members of the OJA can, at any time, ask to see Bank Statements, details of any spend, together with any receipts. These documents will be emailed by the Treasurer, upon request.
  - Stefan discussed that it is the intention to have a tiered ticket price introduced so that paid up members of the OJA can enjoy a lower ticket price. This was not possible this year, due to the inexperience in Website matters in having this implemented on the website. (The vast majority of tickets sold for the dinner this year, were purchased via the OJA website – the first year of implementation (previous dinners required postal applications and a cheque for payment, rather than electronic payments). Stefan also outlined that it is planned to hold the AGM and Annual dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday after Easter each year.
  - It was suggested by James White that a discount on ticket prices be introduced for younger OJs, who then might be encouraged to attend and join the Association. James went on to add that holding the dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend after Easter might impact some final year university students in attending due to their final exams. James was thanked for his input, and It was agreed that the committee would consider his suggestions. James also expressed an interest to become more involved in the OJA at some point in the future.
- Constitution amendments (Rules) – Stefan Bartkowiak
  - SB outline the rationale for the update of rules, which were accepted unanimously by the group.
- Elections
  - Andy Valvona Chair-Person, Membership Secretary, Treasurer.
  - Steve Bedingham – Archives Manager
  - Stephen Davies – Events Manager
  - Dominic Fontana – LinkedIn
  - Cheryl Fontana – Committee Member
  - All were voted in unanimously by the group.
  - The vacant Website Manager role was volunteered for by Anna Nguyen who has a strong background in Software Engineering, in the USA. It should be noted that Anna had travelled from Texas specifically to attend the OJA Event. Anna was a pupil at St John's College in the 1970s. The group expressed their gratitude to Anna for volunteering for this role, for which Anna is not required to be a Committee Member. Responsibility for the Newsletter will be managed by the Committee in the coming months, with Stefan Bartkowiak volunteering to produce the next issue.
- Life Memberships/Honorary Membership
  - It was agreed unanimously that this category of membership should be retained, although used sparingly.
- AOB
  - There were no AOB's of any note





## OJA revised Rules (OJA Editor Stefan Bartkowiak)

[https://www.old-johannian-](https://www.old-johannian-association.com/files/ugd/7cfb22_512e449f18ed4dbb876c43de1b734f76.pdf)

[association.com/files/ugd/7cfb22\\_512e449f18ed4dbb876c43de1b734f76.pdf](https://www.old-johannian-association.com/files/ugd/7cfb22_512e449f18ed4dbb876c43de1b734f76.pdf)

The full adopted rules are posted on the web site for membership scrutiny. A unanimous vote to adopt them took place at the 2024 AGM.

The purpose of the revision falls into several categories. Firstly, it is simple house-keeping where we remove all redundant references to items such as the Association bar in the Castle. We then seek to define the purpose and aims of the Association. We define how we

comply with current law and its changes, specifically the legal liabilities such as accounting, insurance, and GDPR. Then we aim to define more of the detail of the running of the Association, and to do this we seek to ensure the transparency and inclusivity for the members along with a mechanism that allows the committee to function in its day-to-day business without any onerous consultative procedures.

The rules themselves have been split into 2 sections.

### The rules

The rules are in numbered sections and each rule defines the limitations that it imposes. These rules can only be changed by a vote at a general meeting (AGM or Extraordinary.)

### Annexes to the rules

The annexes are numbered and referenced to a particular rule. The rule themselves make reference to their respective annex. The annexes may be changed by the committee without reference to the membership to avoid unnecessarily limiting the committee's ability to conduct its business throughout the year.

A copy of the current rules will be posted on the OJA web site and a copy of the latest draft will also be posted alongside them for ease of comparison. Because these current changes are so large it will be for the members to make their own comparisons, however future proposed changes will be summarised as they arise and posted on the rules' web site page.

## And now for something completely different.....

### The school song

The story behind the school song, is that it was part of college life since the college first opened its doors. Part of the culture of the time was that organisations used symbols as a matter of common practice. These symbols were crests, mottos, uniforms, and anthems or associated songs. For the younger members of the audience, they will be puzzled by the concept, and many will be unaware that a school song even exists.

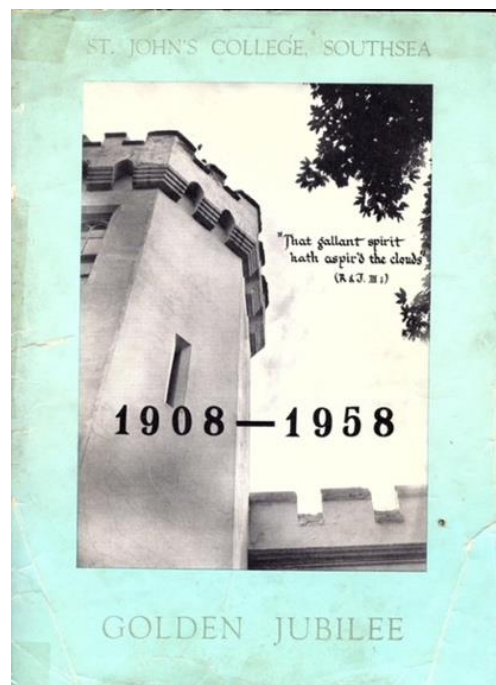
Evidence of this is borne out on the Facebook conversations.

It has always been a tradition that the school song is sung (or at least attempted to be sung) at the annual dinner. This is usually at the latter stages of the dinner and invariably causes some merriment.

There are no recordings of a professional rendition of the song and the musical score has not been in evidence for some time.

Thanks to the research of Geoff Hartridge, the words and score were found in the Jubilee (1908-1958) college gazette copy he had squirreled away. So here it is....

If there are any of you out there with the skills to turn this into a recording which could be played at the annual dinners in the future, please contact us (and put us out of our perennial misery!)



Here is an extract from Geoff's email: -

*As promised after our conversation at the 'do' on Sat. a sample of my archives.*

*The school song actually has 3 verses so I suggest next year we do two and our 60's table does a solo of the last verse with a 'huzzah' at the end of **'The school, the school, the school'** at a slower pace with greater emphasis!*

*I have the following old Gazettes. Easter 1959. Summer 1959. New Year 1960. Easter 1960. Midsummer 1960. Easter 1961. Midsummer 1961. Midsummer 1963. Obviously some missing here but others may fill in the gaps if they look in their attics!!*

# The School Song

In the days of old, when hearts of gold  
 For Right made common cause,  
 They left to Fame a glorious name,  
 But not for vain applause!  
 JOHANNIANS, we, with souls as free,  
 Can do as they of yore,  
 And sow the seeds of noble deeds  
 By SOUTHSEA'S sounding shore  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Chorus :-

**The School! The School! The School!**  
**And all who love its story!**  
**The School! The School! The School!**  
**Its name – its fame – its glory.**  
**"PER LABOREM AD HONOREM"**  
**Runs its golden rule**  
**So now with me,**  
**Give – Three times Three!**  
**The School! The School! The School!**

Be this our goal – with heart and soul  
 Our ALMA MATER'S name  
 To guard – renowned – with glory crowned  
 High on the role of Fame;  
 In work and Play to hold our way.  
 When Honour's Rule shall be.  
 For one and all, a trumpet call  
 To strike for Victory!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Chorus

We realise Life's golden prize  
 In Youth is lost – or won!  
 With noblest aim we'll play the game  
 Until our Duty's done!  
 ST JOHN'S fair name in living flame  
 Of Love, shall, day by day.  
 A symbol shine of Love Divine  
 To light us on our way!  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Chorus

## St John's College - School Song

In days of old when hearts of gold for right made common  
 cause, They left to fame a glorious name but not for vain app-  
 -ause. To-honour us with souls as free can do as they of  
 yore and sow the seeds of noble deeds by Southsea sounding  
 shore. The school, the school, the school and all who love its  
 sto-ry, the school, the school, the school, its name, its fame, its  
 glo-ry. Per lab-orem ad hon-orem runs its golden  
 rule. So now with me give three times three, the  
 school, the school, the school!

## How St. John's college influenced my working life.

Article by Sean Coughlan (BBC News - royal correspondent)

Sean's Bio <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cx6p2795jvqt>

I was asked to write about how my time at St John's might have influenced my working life.

In fact, it's been a remarkably recurrent part of my three decades in journalism, much of which has been spent at the BBC.

I've kept bumping into people connected with the school and maybe that isn't an accident.

I'm currently a royal correspondent at the BBC, mostly writing for the online news you see on your mobile phone, which is where everyone now seems to get their information.

But the other day I was waiting to go on to the set for the TV news when also in the wings was weatherman Tomasz Schafernaker. He was at St John's a long time after me, but we had a quick hushed chat about the school.

And as we waited, and it's a bit like waiting to appear on stage in a school play in the old Benildus Hall, they were playing a recorded piece by Duncan Kennedy, who was at St John's a few years ahead of me.

What were the odds of those three Johannian connections coming together? It's not something anyone else would even notice.

That's not to mention the much-missed George Alagiah in the BBC OJ line-up.

Maybe it's not entirely a coincidence. Does it say something about the type of individuals who emerged from St John's? Is there a rather maverick, unconventional, individualistic streak? Was there also a trait of being able to fit in with different settings, social chameleons?

In all the tributes about George Alagiah when he died last year, part of me wondered how much he'd learned about life from growing up in St John's in the 1970s, enjoying all the fun of what was then called "Sunny Southsea" but also surviving an era of skinheads and punchy late-night bus-stops. We learned to move between worlds.

We had to be adaptable and to find a way to work in new environments. George sent me an email once, about bumping into other OJs, saying: "We Johannians certainly do get around!"

When I went to Paris recently for the King's state visit, the royal press pack wanted to meet up (which means go drinking) with the doyen of English-language journalists working in France, and that's Peter Allen, another OJ and now a prominent resident in Paris. He's also the son of Paul Allen, that great English teacher and talented writer.

My time as royal correspondent has coincided with some historic events and I was lucky enough to be in the congregation in Westminster Abbey for both the Queen's funeral and the King's coronation. Moments I won't forget.

But not long after I'd started on the royal patch, I was at the Platinum Jubilee concert outside Buckingham Palace. There was a press area and someone looked very familiar. Was it someone I'd worked with? Was it some press officer I'd crossed swords with years ago? He looked so familiar. Then of course, when we got chatting, he'd been at St John's. It was Simon Perry, a few years after me at St John's and now a very successful journalist for a big US magazine.

There are plenty more out there too. Paul Murphy, in my year at St John's, is in charge of investigations at the Financial Times.

And on the subject of investigations, it still seems so sad and puzzling that the school closed and all of that history and shared experience was swept away. I can hardly believe it still and it seems such a grievous loss. At school we had a strong sense of those who were before us and all that world vanished overnight.

But back to the initial question. How did my time at St John's influence my working life? It might be the same in many other fields of work, but in my own there was a definite sense of continuity. At school we'd had a strong sense of creativity and curiosity and a willingness to ask questions.

We had the chance to write for the YJ magazine and the gazette and to take part in John Offord's European dramas. Where else would school plays have been Jean-Paul Sartre or Maxim Gorky? That was brilliantly eccentric in many ways. We didn't know how much we were being shown at an early age.

We were learning how to move between different attitudes and ideas. We could move between back stage and on stage and know the difference. The only regret is that there's no one now following in our footsteps.

Sean Coughlan at St John's 1974-1981.





Some items from the past.

2006 golf with Chairman Tony Baker and David Harris

Matron 1970's & 80's



Brian Hartley OJA editor 2006



Roll of honour commemorative board 2014



1189 Air Training Corps squadron (St John's detached flight.)

